

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 SENATE BILL 368

By: Bullard

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Religious Freedom  
8 Act; amending 51 O.S. 2011, Section 253, which  
9 relates to burden upon free exercise of religion;  
10 prohibiting governmental declaration of religious  
11 institution as nonessential; prohibiting closure or  
12 restriction on religious institution under certain  
13 circumstances; providing an effective date; and  
14 declaring an emergency.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 51 O.S. 2011, Section 253, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Section 253. A. Except as provided in subsection B of this  
19 section, no governmental entity shall substantially burden a  
20 person's free exercise of religion even if the burden results from a  
21 rule of general applicability.

22 B. No governmental entity shall substantially burden a person's  
23 free exercise of religion unless it demonstrates that application of  
24 the burden to the person is:

25 1. Essential to further a compelling governmental interest; and

1           2. The least restrictive means of furthering that compelling  
2 governmental interest.

3           C. No governmental entity as defined pursuant to Section 252 of  
4 this title shall declare or deem a religious institution and any  
5 activity directly related to the institution's discharge of its  
6 mission and purpose to be nonessential. No religious institution  
7 shall be subject to a closure or restriction for the purposes of  
8 health or security that is greater than that imposed upon any  
9 private entity facing the same or similar health or security  
10 conditions.

11           SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2021.

12           SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
13 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
14 declared to exist, by reason whereof this resolution shall take  
15 effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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17           58-1-90           TEK           1/12/2021 12:03:15 PM